From: Association of Deputy District Attorneys
To: Kutches, Brandon (SHF)
Subject: Monday Morning Memo for December 31, 2018
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Courts / Rulings

Lawyer wins reversal of conviction that forms the basis of interim suspension
Suspended Sherman Oaks attorney Chaka H. Grossman has won a bid in the Court of Appeal for this district for reversal of a felony conviction stemming from a 2015 search of his house by Los Angeles police officers, pursuant to a warrant, because the warrant was based, in part, on statements made by the lawyer during an unlawful detention. The lawyer pled no contest to possessing heroin and methamphetamine while armed.
Metropolitan News-Enterprise

Judge doubts FBI's reasons for hiding gag order records
A federal judge on Thursday doubted the government's reasons for hiding the names of companies allowed to disclose that federal investigators made them turn over customers' information without a warrant. "I simply do not understand your argument for why you should be able to redact the names of these companies," U.S. District Judge Vince Chhabria told a U.S. government attorney in court Thursday.
Courthouse News Service

Judge declines to force feds to give grant money to California
A federal judge on Friday declined to force the Trump administration to award California $1.5 million in public safety funding the state says is being withheld over its refusal to help federal authorities deport undocumented immigrants. In a decision issued late Friday, U.S. District Judge William Orrick III said he understands why California believes the administration is withholding the money to get around his Nov. 20 amended injunction permanently barring the U.S. Department of Justice from withholding policing grants based on the state's refusal to help enforce immigration laws.
Courthouse News Service

Can't impound vehicle because driver lacks California license
The Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has declared that law enforcement agencies improperly impounded vehicles based on the drivers lacking a California driver's license where each had a license issued in Mexico. Senior Circuit Judge J. Clifford Wallace wrote Friday's majority opinion and Circuit Judge Paul added thoughts in a concurring opinion. The plaintiffs, Rafael M. Sandoval and Simeon Ruiz, each got pulled over in a separate incident in Sonoma County, Sandoval by a county sheriff's deputy and Ruiz by Santa Rosa police officers.
Metropolitan News-Enterprise

Brown adviser Groban confirmed to California high court
Joshua Groban, legal adviser to outgoing California Governor Jerry Brown, sailed through his confirmation hearing Friday to become a California Supreme Court justice after a unanimous vote. "I want to thank the governor for having the confidence to select me," Groban said

after the vote. "I will try every day to fulfill the promise he saw in me." Groban didn't lack for glowing comments from supporters who testified before the Commission on Judicial Appointments Friday.
Courthouse News Service

Mystery case on grand jury subpoena now at U.S. Supreme Court
A secret case involving an unknown foreign corporation owned by a foreign government reached the U.S. Supreme Court this weekend, as the mystery company asked the Chief Justice of the United States to block orders by lower courts forcing that company to comply with a secret grand jury subpoena, in a case which many believe is related to the investigation of Special Counsel Robert Mueller.
Boston 25 News

New Santa Clara County judge sets diversity milestone as she continues career in service
For Audra Ibarra, becoming a judge is about continuing a lifetime of community service instilled in her at childhood. Her father, a career public-university professor in computer science, passed up lucrative corporate jobs in the exploding tech industry of the 1980s and 1990s, to keep teaching. "Public service is in my core," Ibarra said. "What really matters to me is giving back and being part of the community and the bigger picture.
Bay Area News Group

A California court finds social-media posts aren't a First Amendment right
Social media has created a slew of new issues in the courts and forced judges to ponder the legal import of postmodern concepts like Facebook friends and Instagram followers. Last year, the US Supreme Court ruled in Packingham v. North Carolina that social-media platforms are the new "public square," and access to them is protected by the First Amendment, which guarantees free speech.
Quartz

Butter knife, used to slash at woman, wasn't a deadly weapon - S.C.
The California Supreme Court yesterday reversed a decision by the Court of Appeal for this district affirming a Juvenile Court order declaring a girl a ward of the court holding that, on the facts of the case, the butter knife she wielded in slashing at her sister was not a "deadly weapon." "We hold, consistent with settled principles, that for an object to qualify as a deadly weapon based on how it was used, the defendant must have used the object in a manner not only capable of producing but also likely to produce death or great bodily injury," Justice Goodwin Liu wrote for a unanimous court.
Metropolitan News-Enterprise

Victim's unknown injury required manslaughter instruction

A man who was convicted of second degree murder was entitled to an involuntary manslaughter jury instruction because he didn't know that the victim - whom he argued he had meant to merely beat up - had a preexisting spinal injury, the Court of Appeal for this district held yesterday in reversing the judgment. Justice Luis A. Lavin of Div. Three said that Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Bernie C. LaForteza prejudicially erred in declining to give the instruction requested by defendant Tyshaun Vasquez.
Metropolitan News-Enterprise

Prop 47, 57 & AB 109

Rise in crime since California's prison overhaul prompts call for rollback
President Trump signed a bipartisan bill last week to overhaul the nation's prison and sentencing laws. It's unlikely such a package of sentence-reducing, rehabilitation-oriented measures would have gotten much traction if California had not led the way. A series of criminal justice reforms in recent years, including prison realignment and Proposition 47, have changed sentencing laws and reduced the state's prison population.
KPBS

Voters should get to decide 2020 criminal justice ballot measure
Outgoing Governor Jerry Brown has just filed a lawsuit to try to keep an initiative off the 2020 ballot. Initiative No. 17-0004, the Reducing Crime and Keeping California Safe Act of 2018, has already qualified for the ballot, according to Secretary of State Alex Padilla. In July, Padilla said the measure had enough valid signatures to be placed before voters.
Los Angeles Daily News

Claremont theft suspect turns out to be overconfident about legal knowledge
Hector Palanco seemed to know the law. After all, he's certainly broken it often enough, Claremont police say. So it probably wasn't a shock on Christmas Day when Palanco, 37, tried to show his knowledge of Prop. 47, the initiative approved by California voters in 2014 that reduced certain drug-possession felonies to misdemeanors and required misdemeanor - not felony - sentencing for theft, receiving stolen property and forgery when the value of the theft is $950 or less.
Riverside Press-Enterprise

Prosecutors/Prosecutions

In prosecutions of street racing, penalties aren't as stiff as some would like
Natalie Volkoff and her son were driving home from a church youth event when they saw two cars approaching fast in the opposite direction. One of the cars lost control, sending the other spinning over

the center divider and into the driver's side of Volkoff's gray Honda. After the crash, Volkoff's son, Alex, then 11, looked at the driver's seat. His mother was motionless. Blood dripped from her mouth.
Los Angeles Times

Santa Paula police officer charged in auto insurance fraud
A Santa Paula police officer has been charged with fraud on suspicion of "making a false statement" to an auto insurance company regarding a former Santa Paula police officer he saw get into a car accident, prosecutors said Thursday. Matthew Alonzo, 39, was charged with one count of felony insurance fraud based on a statement he made to the Automobile Club of Southern California about a Jan. 8 crash in Ventura, according to news release from the Ventura County District Attorney's Office.
Ventura County Star

Disbarred attorney accused of posing as different attorney in Ventura County Superior Court
A disbarred attorney from Carson has been charged with identity theft and other offenses for allegedly posing as a different lawyer in Ventura County, prosecutors said Friday. Jamual D. Cannon, 42, pleaded not guilty Friday to charges of unauthorized practice of law, identity theft, false personation, second-degree commercial burglary and grand theft, according to the Ventura County District Attorney's Office.
Ventura County Star

SF cop who'd been suspended for racist texts now charged with bank robbery
A San Francisco police officer who has been on suspension for three years for sending racist and homophobic text messages was charged Wednesday with robbing a bank. Rain Daugherty was identified by a bank teller and surveillance video, and later by fellow officers, as the man who entered the East West Bank on Irving Street in San Francisco's Sunset District on Nov. 29, handed a note to a teller demanding $50 and $100 bills, and fled with about $9,050 in cash, an FBI agent said in a court filing.
SF Gate

Homeless man accused of attempted murder following brutal knife attack on parents in Saugus
Deputies found and arrested a man Sunday afternoon after they say he stabbed his parents, who had just obtained a restraining order against him, at their Saugus home the previous night. Gregory Ryan Brunson, 55, described as a transient and former body builder, was booked on suspicion of attempted murder following his arrest about 1 p.m. Sunday in some hills behind a neighborhood at Bouquet Canyon Road and Plum Canyon Road, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department said in a written statement.

KTLA

Departing Marin DA reflects on 42-year career
For Marin County District Attorney Edward Berberian, the jury is still out on how he feels about his retirement, which begins Jan. 4. About to leave after 42 years working for the Marin County District Attorney's Office, Berberian compares the feeling to the emotional rollercoaster that "I'm kind of in that stage at the moment," Berberian said. "It's like waiting for the jury to return with its verdict."
Marin Independent Journal

Criminal Justice / Public Safety

The U.S. finally made lynching a federal crime
In a legislative victory 100 years in the making, the Senate unanimously approved a bill on Wednesday that declares lynching a federal crime in the United States. The Justice for Victims of Lynching Act was a bipartisan effort introduced earlier this year by three African-American Senators: California Democratic Senator Kamala Harris, New Jersey Democratic Senator Cory Booker and South Carolina Republican Senator Tim Scott.
Smithsonian.com

California transformed its justice system. But now crime is up, and critics want rollbacks
Over the last decade, California has led the nation in reducing its prison population. The state has shortened sentences and diverted some offenders to the counties for incarceration and supervision, transforming California's criminal justice system into what supporters hope will become a humane model around the country.
Los Angeles Times

Ex-Inglewood police officers involved in fatal shooting claim they were fired for being white
Five Inglewood police officers fired after they fatally shot a young couple sitting in a parked car are suing the city, alleging they were subjected to disparate treatment because they are white. Former officers Sean Reidy, Richard Parcella, Michael Jaen, Andrew Cohen and Jason Cantrell filed the 31-page lawsuit Friday in Los Angeles Superior Court, alleging unlawful employment discrimination and harassment.
City News Service

In Ventura County, a new sheriff comes to town on the heels of a mass killing and raging wildfires
If everything had gone as planned, William Ayub's swearing-in ceremony as Ventura County's new sheriff would have been equal parts solemnity and wishes for the future. Outgoing Sheriff Geoff Dean would have had a retirement party, drinks, laughter, reminiscing. Ayub, whose family fled Lebanon in the '30s and later settled in Ventura, had spent more than

three decades in law enforcement before deciding to run for sheriff.
Los Angeles Times

More police officers died from gunfire than traffic incidents in 2018, report says
More law enforcement officers were shot and killed in the line of duty in 2018 than last year, driving a 12 percent overall increase in the number of officers who died on the job, according to preliminary data from The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. "Firearms-related fatalities were the leading cause of officer deaths, with 52 officers shot and killed in 2018," the NLEOMF says.
NPR

Crime

California authorities arrest, identify suspect and 7 others in officer's shooting death
A man suspected of killing police officer Ronil Singh this week in Newman, California, has been arrested, Deputy Blake Edwards with the Kern County Sheriff's Office said Friday. The suspect was identified as Gustavo Perez Arriaga, 33, according to Stanislaus County Sheriff Adam Christianson. Arriaga was at a Kern County home upon being arrested, Christianson said. Kern County is about 200 miles south of where the shooting occurred.
CNN

Sheriff: Suspect in shooting of Newman officer was in US illegally
The police chief of a tiny California town fought back tears as he described the officer gunned down during a traffic stop as a patriot who fought hard to serve his adopted country while the man suspected of killing him crossed the border illegally and is a "coward." Cpl. Ronal Singh, who emigrated from his native Fiji, was shot at about 1 a.m. Wednesday after stopping a suspected drunken driver in Newman, southeast of San Francisco in the San Joaquin Valley.
AP

Kidnapped woman hides in McDonald's bathroom after jumping from car in Pico Rivera
A woman who was kidnapped by her boyfriend escaped by jumping out of his car and hiding inside a bathroom at a McDonald's in Pico Rivera on Sunday, authorities said. The suspect, a 19-year-old Whittier man, eluded capture. The victim, a 26-year-old Pico Rivera woman, sustained scratches to her knees when she jumped out of the vehicle, said sheriff's Lt. Jodi Hutak. She said the woman was not taken to a hospital.
San Gabriel Valley Tribune

Nine arrested in human trafficking sting
Among the most abominable, heinous crimes that thrive around the world is human trafficking, which involves millions of victims. The Global

Slavery Index 2018 estimates that on any given day in 2016, there were 403,000 people living in conditions of modern slavery in the United States, a prevalence of 1.3 victims of modern slavery for every thousand in the country.
Antelope Valley Press

Woman rams cruiser, tries to run over cops before being fatally shot
San Jose officers shot and killed a woman who drove a suspected stolen car at them early Tuesday and rammed a patrol vehicle before officers opened fire, a Police Department spokesman said. After a report of shots fired from a car shortly after 2 a.m., police found two adults with gunshot wounds while the car was driving away, said Sgt. Enrique Garcia.
San Francisco Chronicle

Convictions / Sentences

Galvez murder defendant will only see three to five years despite plea deal, DPD says
More than three years after the tragic death of Downey police officer Ricardo "Ricky" Galvez, one of the defendants in the murder trial has entered a plea deal to evade criminal charges. Abel Diaz was 16 years old when he participated in a botched robbery attempt that resulted in the fatal shooting of 29-year-old Downey police officer and Marine veteran Galvez in the DPD parking lot on Nov. 18, 2015.
The Downey Patriot

'Career criminal' accepts plea deal in death of San Bernardino County sheriff's deputy
A man previously charged with murder in the death of a San Bernardino County sheriff's deputy has accepted a plea bargain to lesser charges, according to court documents. Alonzo Leron Smith pleaded no contest Friday to voluntary manslaughter, threatening a crime and three counts of assault by means of force likely to produce great bodily injury in the death of Lawrence "Larry" Falce, according to San Bernardino County Superior Court records.
Los Angeles Times

Senator staffer gets 2 months for lying to FBI
A federal judge on Thursday sentenced a former Senate Intelligence Committee staffer to two months in prison for lying to federal investigators about his interactions with reporters. The sentence U.S. District Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson handed down was less than the two years in prison the government requested for James Wolfe, but above Wolfe's request to receive only community service. After being released from prison, Wolfe will also need to complete 20 hours of community service per month over four months of supervised release.
Courthouse News Service

Birthday party clown admits to repeatedly sexually abusing young girl
A California man convicted of repeatedly sexually assaulting a 9-year-old girl was recently sentenced to 28 years in prison. The Los Angeles Times reported that Gualberto Torres-Vargas, 40, pleaded guilty to continuous sexual abuse, sodomy by force of a child under 14 years old, performing a lewd act on a child under 14, and forcible rape. Torres-Vargas was arrested on November 19, 2015; Prosecutors accused him of molesting the girl between November 1, 2014, and November 9, 2015.
Crime Online

Parole / Pardons

Court puts limits on Jerry Brown's powers, denies clemency to 6 California killers
The California Supreme Court rejected one of Gov. Jerry Brown's attempted commutations Monday, the seventh time the court has rejected a clemency request from the outgoing governor in recent weeks. The rejections mark the first time the court has blocked a governor's clemency requests in at least half a century, according to the state's Judicial Council. The court reviews clemency actions for inmates who have been convicted of more than one felony.
Sacramento Bee

Gov. Jerry Brown sets record for pardons, commutations in California
When Jerry Brown was governor from 1975 to 1983, he pardoned 404 convicted criminals, removing the convictions from their records, and granted one commutation, shortening a prisoner's sentence. But during his past eight years in office, he has granted 1,189 pardons and 152 commutations, far more than any other governor in modern California history.
San Francisco Chronicle

San Francisco mayor trying to get brother, a convicted killer, out of lockup 20 years early
San Francisco Mayor London Breed sent a letter to departing Gov. Jerry Brown in late October asking him to "consider leniency" and commute the sentence of her older brother, who has served nearly two decades of a 44-year sentence on a manslaughter conviction, according to reports. The San Francisco Chronicle reported Wednesday that the mayor has joined other members of her family in requesting an early release from prison for Napoleon Brown, who struggled with drugs from a young age.
Fox News

Gov. Brown pardons man who lost home to the Camp Fire
The destruction left behind from the Camp Fire is forcing thousands to start over. But one man who lost everything in the fire is getting another

new beginning he actually asked for. He's one of 38 people who Gov. Jerry Brown granted pardons to last week for nonviolent crimes. It was a phone call Jason Burnett has been waiting more than a year for. "It was the best news," he said.
Fox40

Jerry Brown-most forgiving governor in modern California history
There is a very good chance that Governor Jerry Brown is going to clear out the over 700 inmates on California's Death Row prior to his leaving office. He has always been an opponent of the death penalty. Governors in several states have done this to their residents - now want Brown to do the same. My guess is that the day before he leaves office he declares Death Row an historical monument and allows many to work free or get reduced sentences.
California Political Review

Policy & Legal Issues

City appoints own police chief
With the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department unable to fulfill its contract with the city because of a shortage of deputies, the City Council appointed Public Safety Director Lee D'Errico police chief, and established a hybrid law enforcement model and directed staff to hire a consultant firm to develop options for the city to work in partnership with the Lancaster Sheriff's Station.
Antelope Valley Press

Inglewood to destroy more than 100 police shooting records that could otherwise become public under new California law
The city of Inglewood has authorized the shredding of more than 100 police shooting and other internal investigation records weeks before a new state law could allow the public to access them for the first time. The decision, made at a City Council meeting earlier this month, has troubled civil liberties advocates who were behind the state legislation, Senate Bill 1421, which takes effect Jan. 1.
Los Angeles Times

How one county became a lab for California's prison reform
When California lawmakers unveiled a plan in 2011 to reduce the number of inmates in state prison, officials in San Joaquin County thought the timing couldn't have been worse. There were already signs that a recent dip in crime might be coming to an end in this Central Valley county east of San Francisco. Homicides were up by nearly 40 percent from the previous year. And in the midst of a financial crisis, the county and local cities were laying off police officers and prosecutors.
The Marshall Project

Recidivism risk assessments won't fix the criminal justice system

The First Step Act of 2018 (S. 3649) is now federal law. The criminal justice reform law has been widely hailed as long overdue, and rightly so. But as we turn to its implementation, we urge policymakers to take care with the central provision of the bill that calls for the development of a risk assessment system for inmates.
Electronic Frontier Foundation

California Gov. Brown orders new DNA testing in murder case involving Kevin Cooper
Gov. Jerry Brown ordered new DNA tests Monday that a condemned inmate says could clear him in a 35-year-old murder case that has drawn national attention. Brown ordered new testing on four pieces of evidence that Kevin Cooper and his attorneys say will show he was framed for the 1983 Chino Hills hatchet and knife killings of four people. The items that will be tested are a tan T-shirt and orange towel found near the scene and the hatchet handle and sheath.
AP

Los Angeles County

Longtime community leader Barbara Yaroslavsky dies
Barbara Yaroslavsky, a longtime civic leader in Los Angeles, and wife of L.A. County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, died unexpectedly Wednesday. Barbara was a longtime member of the State Medical Board, and was involved in countless community projects in and around Los Angeles. She served on boards for the Bureau of Jewish Education, the Jewish Federation Council of Greater Los Angeles, the Jewish Public Affairs Committee, the Los Angeles Free Clinic and LA's Best, among others.
Beverly Hills Courier

LA County commits to expand arts investment for justice-involved kids
As Los Angeles County leaders continue to reimagine the county's juvenile justice system, they're now looking to see if they can leverage the arts to help achieve reform goals. With a $750,000 one-year grant from the Ford Foundation's Arts Justice Fund (AJF), the county Arts Commission will launch the Arts and Youth Development Project, which is designed to serve youth and families involved - or at risk of involvement - with the juvenile justice system.
Witness LA

Authorities search for inmate who walked away from work camp in Los Angeles County
Authorities are searching for an inmate who walked away from a work camp in the San Gabriel Mountains on Sunday. Officials discovered 52-year-old Eric Levi was missing during an inmate count at the Fenner Canyon Conservation Camp at 5:48 p.m. Sunday. He was last seen at the camp, which is located in the mountains northwest of Wrightwood,

during a count roughly 40 minutes earlier, according to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.
Los Angeles Times

California / National

As police struggle to solve homicides, Baltimore residents see an 'open season for killing'
Gray's death prompted massive protests that at times turned to riots. The years since have come with a documented officer slowdown - patrol officers say they are hesitant to leave their vehicles and have made fewer subjective stops of people on Baltimore's streets. That, coupled with a crisis of police legitimacy as residents express distrust and frustration with the force, has fueled a public safety emergency in parts of the city, community leaders say.
Washington Post

The clock is ticking for suicide prevention
More than nine years have passed since Indiana lost Jacob Sexton, an Indiana National guardsman who tragically took his own life while on leave from a deployment to Afghanistan. While nine years may feel like the blink of an eye to many of us, for Jacob's parents, Jeff and Barbara, it has been an incredible journey to highlight the scourge of military suicide and put in place new policies that give other servicemembers the support they need to positively respond to mental health challenges.
South Bend Tribune

Everything Kamala Harris is doing says she's running for president
Sen. Kamala Harris is making all the early moves for a 2020 presidential run. The California Democrat is booking speeches in early primary states while stepping back from the Sunday morning talks shows, which provide forums for verbal missteps. Just as telling was her recent fact-finding trip to Afghanistan, with two Republicans no less, to burnish her military and foreign relations credentials.
San Francisco Chronicle

Who moves to California? The wealthier and better educated, mostly
High taxes. Stifling regulations. Exorbitant housing costs. Freeway gridlock. Fires and floods. Hand-wringing over an exodus of disillusioned Californians may be a Golden State pastime, the subject of political punditry and strung-out social media threads. But the latest data are far from dire. The U.S. Census Bureau, in its newly released surveys for 2017, shows that California's net migration remained fairly stable.
Los Angeles Times

California's next governor and lawmakers enter a new power dynamic in Sacramento

Single-payer healthcare. Universal preschool. Tuition-free community college. The California Legislature and the state's next governor share a wish list of progressive policies. The big question is: Who takes the lead? After eight years under the fiscal restraint of Gov. Jerry Brown, legislators are ready for a new relationship with the governor's office and a more balanced power dynamic in Sacramento.
Los Angeles Times

The looming purge: Riverside County Sheriff-elect Bianco expected to empty top ranks and elevate allies
After this year's divisive election, many high-ranking officials in the Riverside County Sheriff's Department will be either retiring, transferring or will be relieved of duty when Sheriff-elect Chad Bianco takes office Jan. 7. In an interview with The Desert Sun, Bianco confirmed he intends to bring in a mostly new team. "I'm considering any and every option of how to get the best leaders on my executive staff. Leadership ability and quality is a priority," he said.
Palm Springs Desert Sun

California Today: What a 4 A.M. closing time would mean for bars
This week, I talked with Scott Wiener, a state senator from San Francisco, about his second attempt at getting a sweeping, divisive housing bill through the Legislature. But that's not the only bill he's resurrecting. For the third year in a row, Mr. Wiener is trying to put off closing time with legislation that would let cities decide whether to allow bars, clubs and restaurants to keep selling alcohol until 4 a.m.
New York Times

New Laws

California's new laws in 2019 include requiring a woman on corporate boards, limits on sugary drinks for kids and more
Wondering why restaurants are serving you drinks without straws? Or why carpool lanes might be less crowded? Many new laws passed by the California legislature in 2018 will come into effect in the new year. Here are a few highlights: Kiddie meals: Senate Bill 1192 changed the state's Retail Food Code to require restaurants to make water or milk the default beverages sold with children's meals, rather than sugary drinks like soda or juice.
Palm Springs Desert Sun

New age for gun buyers, fewer straws, no cash bail; many new California laws kick in next year
New rules for criminal justice to restrictions on plastic straws to a new minimum age to buy a gun - all are part of a broad slate of state laws set to take effect next year. Some start Jan. 1, others later in the year, but many have the potential to change your life in some way. Here are some of the notables: Stricter gun laws - Starting Jan. 1, you'll have to be at least 21 to buy any gun in California.

Orange County Register

California's minimum wage goes up again in 2019, and it's even higher in these cities
On Jan. 1, 2019, California will move one step closer to its ultimate goal of a $15-an-hour minimum wage. In the new year, employers with 25 or fewer employees will be required to pay a minimum of $11 an hour, while employers who have 26 or more employees must pay $12 an hour. The federal minimum wage is $7.25, which the state supersedes because it is higher.
Sacramento Bee

Consumer News

How the state of the Amazon Marketplace represents China's unfair practices
The United States and China have been exchanging blows over the past year in their trade dispute with both announcing tariffs in response to the other's moves. It was only this December that both countries eased off in their tit-for-tat, delaying the enactment of new tariff increases as the countries negotiate. But while most eyes are focused on the import and export of physical goods, the internet is emerging to be an important front in this US and China showdown.
Business 2 Community

Here's how to delete Facebook (It won't help)
It is OK to be upset with Facebook. It's even OK to not fully understand why you are upset with Facebook this time. In a year of monthly, sometimes weekly, complicated scandals for the social network, it can be difficult to keep track of the exact reason or moment you lost trust in it. If what you are certain of is that you want to leave Facebook for good, here is what you need to know - including some reasons why you may want to reconsider.
CNN

From Alibaba to sneaker retailers, fashion wages war on counterfeiting
Alibaba, one of the largest e-commerce platforms in the world, added another name last week to its growing Alibaba Anti-Counterfeiting Alliance: luxury group Richemont, parent of brands like Cartier, Valentino and Net-a-Porter. Counterfeiting is a major issue for fashion, particularly luxury fashion, for which authenticity is a major part of the appeal. Damage to a brand's integrity is just one of the negative effects that counterfeit goods can have.
Glossy

Medical professionals send out warning before using at-home DNA kits
At-home DNA kits have become popular during the holiday season, but

medical professionals have a warning for anyone looking to buy one. You could have an aunt from Africa, a father with Danish roots or a niece with Native American ancestry, but health care industry professionals are warning consumers to think before you buy any of these kits during the holidays.
Boston25News

Attorney General Becerra issues consumer alert on price gouging in fire-affected communities statewide
California Attorney General Xavier Becerra today issued an alert reminding consumers that price-gouging prohibitions remain in effect in locations throughout the state. Attorney General Becerra reminds all Californians that price gouging during and after a state of emergency is illegal under Penal Code Section 396. Price gouging is prohibited anywhere in the state where there is an increased consumer demand as a result of a declared emergency.
State of California Department of Justice

Guns

California rejects 2nd Amendment court rulings from other states
California once again is being sued for trying to prevent individuals from exercising their Second Amendment Rights. Already facing cases involving store signs, gun registration, waiting periods, vagueness in its gun laws, bans on weapons of a certain size, handguns, assault weapons and more, the state now is being sued by the Second Amendment Foundation and four other rights groups.
WND

A million New Jersey gun owners ignore State's magazine ban
When New Jersey passed its ban on possession of magazines containing more than 10 rounds in June, it gave the state's million or so law-abiding gun owners 180 days to comply. The law provided five options: 1) modify the offending magazines so they could accept no more than 10 rounds; 2) "render the firearm [that accepts such magazines] inoperable"; 3) register firearms that cannot be "modified to accommodate 10 or less rounds"; 4) transfer the firearm or the magazine to "an individual or entity entitled to own or possess it"; or 5) surrender the firearm or the magazine to local law enforcement.
The New American

Stricter gun laws in 2019 - including California lifetime firearms ownership ban on some domestic abusers
More than a dozen new gun laws passed by California lawmakers go into effect in 2019, including a lifetime gun ownership ban for those involuntarily admitted to a mental health facility. There's also a bill in California to add new protections for survivors of domestic violence. In addition, California and at least five other states (Washington, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois and Vermont) and the District of Columbia passed laws in

2018 that raised the minimum age from 18 years old to age 21 for the purchase of long guns, and many of those laws take effect Jan. 1, 2019.
CNBC

Corrections

Authorities search for Folsom Prison escapee

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) officials are looking for a minimum-security inmate who walked away from the minimum support facility at Folsom State Prison (FSP) on Saturday, December 22. Inmate Justin Franks, 27, was discovered missing during a routine inmate count conducted at 9 p.m. on Saturday, according to Jack Huey, Lieutenant and Public Information Officer for Folsom State Prison, who notified area media shortly after midnight Sunday.
Folsom Telegraph

San Quentin prisoner from L.A. County sought after escape, carjacking

Corrections officials are asking the public for help Thursday in their search for an escaped inmate believed to have carjacked someone while fleeing from San Quentin State Prison. Shalom Mendoza is seen in an image provided by California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Shalom Mendoza, 21, was reported missing about 9:35 p.m. Wednesday during a count at the prison, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation stated in a news release.
KTLA

Marijuana

Marijuana can age your brain by 3 years, study says

One of the biggest brain imaging studies yet found the five biggest drivers of brain aging - and smoking marijuana is one of them. The study evaluated 62,454 brain scans of more than 30,000 people from 9 months old to 105 years old and looked at "regional cerebral blood flow in the brain that is reduced in various disorders." The Journal of Alzheimer's Disease published the study done by scientists from Amen Clinics, Google, John's Hopkins University, University of California, Los Angeles and the University of California, San Francisco.
WTSP

California marijuana recall threatens state cannabis industry

Thousands of pounds of marijuana products were recalled last week in California nearly a month after a lab was caught falsifying pesticide test reports, threatening what some had thought would become the nation's most promising state for the cannabis business. But the recall last week by the state's Bureau of Cannabis Control for 29 businesses that had products tested at Sacramento-based Sequoia Analytical Labs proved to be another stumble out of the gate for California marijuana.

UPI

One year of legal pot sales and California doesn't have the bustling industry it expected. Here's why
When Californians voted in 2016 to allow the sale of recreational marijuana, advocates of the move envisioned thousands of pot shops and cannabis farms obtaining state licenses, making the drug easily available to all adults within a short drive. But as the first year of licensed sales comes to a close, California's legal market hasn't performed as state officials and the cannabis industry had hoped. Retailers and growers say they've been stunted by complex regulations, high taxes and decisions by most cities to ban cannabis shops.
Los Angeles Times

Report dashes hopes for California-backed marijuana bank
California would likely lose money and face insurmountable federal hurdles if it tried to create a state-backed bank for the marijuana industry, according to a report released Thursday by the state treasurer. The report puts an end for now to hopes California could find a way to get around banking hurdles for marijuana businesses as the state's recreational market concludes its first year in operation. A working group launched by state Treasurer John Chiang commissioned the study by a San Diego-based firm in January.
AP

Homeless

Homeless encampment stretches about 1.5 miles in San Fernando Valley
It was an email to NBC4 that led us to a homeless encampment some residents feel rivals Skid Row itself. As part of our "Streets of Shame" series, NBC4 has been flooded with emails, phone calls, photos and videos of what people in Los Angeles say they live with every day. Their stories of the homeless crisis have been a focus for our series, their complaints about the city's response has been a mission NBC4 is trying to get answers to.
NBC4 Los Angeles

Pensions

Jerry Brown predicts 'fiscal oblivion' if pensions are off limits for government employers
Gov. Jerry Brown warned this week that public agencies in California are on a track to "fiscal oblivion" if they're barred from adjusting retirement benefits for their employees. He issued the warning in an interview with The Sacramento Bee three weeks after his attorneys defended his 2012 pension law at the California Supreme Court against a challenge from the union that represents state firefighters.
Modesto Bee

CalPERS engages private prison companies
The chairman of the investment committee of the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) says investment officials are engaging management of two private prison companies, CoreCivic and The GEO Group, as well as defense contractor General Dynamics. Henry Jones' comments come as a California state legislator, Democratic Assemblyman Rob Bonta, has introduced legislation that would force CalPERS to divest from the two prison companies.
Chief Investment Officer

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